

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the at least one V shaped notch ends at the unattached end of the ear. Basis for this amendment can be found in the drawings 12 and 13. Claims 11 and 29 have been amended to require at least two V shaped notches in each ear of the bushing. Basis for this amendment can be found in the specification in the sentence spanning pages 4 and 5. Claim 4 contains an editorial amendment.

The invention described in the claims is a fiberizing bushing, and method of making a fiberizing bushing, for fiberizing a molten material into fibers. The invention is a bushing having ear terminals, each ear having at least two or more V shaped notches at or near the unattached end of the ears with the wide part of each V being at or near the unattached end of the ear. This design of ear terminals provides improved control of the electrical current passing through the bushing to heat the bushing resulting in a tip plate having a substantially improved temperature profile and this results in a higher productivity and improved product uniformity. Expensive precious metal usage can also be reduced by using the present invention, see the paragraph in the specification beginning at line 14 of page 8.

Claims 1-4, 11-14, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Melia et al. This rejection is traversed, particularly with the invention described by the amended claims. While the widest portion of the V-shaped notch in the bushing shown by Melia et al, see also present Fig. 2, is spaced from the unattached end of the ear 51, and while Melia et al do not teach or reasonably suggest attaching a terminal connection spanning the V notch, nevertheless amended claim 1 states that the V-shaped notch ends at the unattached end of the ear and claims 11 and 29 now require at least two V shaped notches in the ear. Since Melia et al teaches using two terminal clamps mounted separately to each of the two tabs on the end of the ear, nothing in

Melia et al suggests, in the sense of 35 USC 103, moving the V-shaped notch to the end of the ear or using two or more V-shaped notches in an ear.

For these reasons Applicant believes that the claims are patentable and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection and to allow all of the claims.

Claims 1-4, 11-14, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the teachings of Yantsev et al. The Examiner considers the U shaped notch in the ear shown in Fig. 2 of this reference as being a minor difference from the V shaped notch(s) in the ears of the claimed invention. This is not right. The crosssectional area of the ear in Yantsev does not change at all until close to the bottom of the U, and then only slightly and then jumps and remains constant. The cross sectional area of the ears in the presently claimed invention increase at a steady rate clear through the V and then remain constant, see Figure 8. This is quite different and produces a very different and superior result in the operation of the claimed bushing as is disclosed in the specification. Also, claims 11 and 30 require at least two V shaped notches in each ear, a feature that in no way suggested by Yantsev et al and a feature that substantially improves the control of the temperature profile of the tip plate of the claimed bushing. For these reasons applicant believes that the claims are patentable over Yantsev et al and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection and to allow all of the claims.

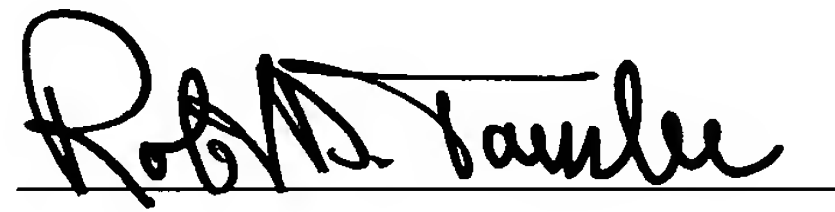
Claims 5-10 and 15-21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but applicant believes that these claims now depend from allowable claims.

Applicant has reviewed the other references cited and agrees with the Examiner that none of these references, either alone or in any combination with

any other references cited either anticipates or makes obvious the presently claimed invention.

Applicant believes that the case is in condition for allowance, but if the Examiner believes that one or more issues still exists, the Examiner is invited, to expedite the disposal of the case, to call applicant's attorney at the number below to discuss the issue(s).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Touslee", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

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303-978-3927